

BARTON PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL PARISH MEETING MINUTES 27th JULY 2023 7.00pm

HELD AT BARTON INSTITUTE

Present; Chair Jones, Vice Chair Wool, Cllr Dobinson, Cllr Burns. Parishioners; Gill Smalley, Joan Marwood & Carol Heslop. Clerk to the Parish Council; Charlotte Liversedge-Gell

1 Apologies	Cllr Thorogood - holidays
2 Declaration of Interest	None
3 Election of a Chair	Cllr Jones elected as Chair
4 Election of a Vice Chair	Cllr Wool elected as Vice Chair
5 Chairman's Annual Report 2021/2022	<p>Chairman report for 2012/2022 Written by Cllr Thorogood & read by Chair Jones Barton Parish Council has had an eventful year overseeing many issues in the Parish and organisation of the parish council. The BPC would like to take this opportunity to thank all the organisations and individuals who make this village the welcoming and caring community it is. The Barton Village Hall Committee, Barton School, Barton Village Shop, St Cuthberts Church and Marygate Chapel and The Playing Fields are just a few organisations whose tireless work within and around our community behind the scenes can go unnoticed not to mention in addition the many individuals involved. The year has seen significant change with the departure of the Chair, a valued councillor and the parish clerk all of whom left a significant vacuum within the council.</p> <p>The council subsequently co-opted Ms Sharon Dobinson and Mr Chris Jones onto the council to make a total of 5 councillors still leaving 2 vacancies. The chair has been nominated on a rotating basis with no one wishing to permanently commit to the position. The loss of the parish clerk caused a few handover issues and thanks must go to Mr Martin Wright for taking on the mantle despite limited experience and significant disruption. Mr Wright tendered his resignation and left the council at the end of June. The council would like to thank him for his tenure.</p> <p>Grateful thanks must go to the outgoing Chair Cllr J White for her leadership and organisational guidance with restructuring various aspects of council administration, as well as Cllr Frank Walsh for his guidance and encyclopaedic knowledge of local matters and especially his work in managing the playground.</p> <p>Much work was completed with a full survey of the village assets along with a long term maintenance plan and financial restructuring due to additional fiscal expense.</p> <p>Summary of business: ☑ The white bridge was repaired after much prodding of Highways who has the responsibility for it. The matter is still not concluded as BPC feel the work completed is substandard, insufficient and incomplete and work continues to persuade highways to fulfil their obligations.</p>

	<p>☑ The playground continues to be maintained & monitored and checked but there is still an anti-social element which continues to cause problems.</p> <p>☑ Two speed matrix signs have been sourced and installed with the grateful assistance of Cllr Angus Thompson. Data is being monitored and although speed continues to be an issue they are having a positive effect.</p> <p>☑ Dog waste bins have had new lids and a new bin sourced at Newton Morrell.</p> <p>☑ Much work had been carried out with regard to the development of the haulage site and positive progress (albeit slow) is being made. In conjunction was the completion of work regarding access to The Half Moon carpark which has allowed an agreement with Punch Breweries and Marygate Development.</p> <p>☑ A thorough survey and programme of tree maintenance has been conducted, implemented and actioned.</p> <p>☑ Grass cutting is a major expense and is being actively monitored. The footpath to Waterfall Terrace is Highways responsibility and has required council intervention to keep it accessible.</p> <p>☑ There has been work started in conjunction with the school regarding the small area of Village Green at The Porch with a possible project to turning it into a tranquil wild green space used by the schoolchildren for educational and practical purposes and for villagers to have a peaceful quiet place of reflection.</p> <p>A difficult year with many challenges and administrative issues which have been overcome and the council can hopefully look towards a more stable year and in addition we would like to welcome a new parish clerk Ms Charlotte Liversedge-Gell.</p> <p>BPC consists of 7 councillors and a clerk so there currently remains two vacancies for new councillors within the PC and it only with your help that village affairs can be managed to our benefit, so please come a meeting, see what happens and get involved, Meetings take place in the Barton Village Hall conference room upstairs on the last Thursday of each month (except Aug & Dec)</p> <p>The current council consists of: Clerk- Charlie Liversedge-Gell Cllr Darren Wool, Cllr Chip Burn, Cllr Chris Jones, Cllr Sharon Dobinson Cllr Alasdair Thorogood, Vacant, Vacant, District Cllr Angus Thompson</p>
<p>6 Village Institute Report 2021/2022</p>	<p>Village Institute Report 2021/2022 Read by Joan Marwood:</p> <p>BARTON VILLAGE INSTITUTE: REGISTERED CHARITY 523321</p> <p>This meeting covers a 14 month period since the last AGM which was held on 5 February 2022 at Barton Village Institute.</p> <p>I am pleased to report that 2022 has seen “normality” return following the difficulties and challenges of the Coronavirus pandemic and we are fortunately in a strong financial position showing a healthy credit. This is due, in part, to the receipt of local government funding during the pandemic which has allowed us to complete major repairs and maintenance to the hall including the complete replacement of</p>

guttering which was causing dampness in the upper floor. The old playroom has now been redecorated and new blinds installed and the room is now used on a regular basis.

The cost of living crisis and energy bills are obviously a cause for concern. We currently benefit from a 4 year fixed rate contract for gas which expires March

2024. Our 3 year electricity contract has just expired and a new contract is in place. However we have benefited from reduced rates with no standing charge over the expensive winter months and will continue to monitor the energy usage closely over the coming months. The management committee are very aware that some residents may be finding the cost of living crisis difficult and for this reason the treasurer has recommended we do not to increase our hire rates this year.

In light of this we have increased the amount earmarked in our Reserve Policy to enable to hall to run for a minimum of 2 years at increased costs. The Management Committee were happy to support the suggestion of a "Mardi Club" which is a free informal coffee morning available to all residents and friends where they can meet and chat over a cup of coffee or tea every Tuesday morning.

It is run by a dedicated group of volunteers who have made it a great success. There has also been an increase in the number of times the hall has been hired for private parties.

Easyfundraising has continued to be a good source of income with £103.25 having been raised in the past year.

Barton Village Institute is used throughout the year. There is a weekly timetable of activities for all ages including:

- ☑ Pilates
- ☑ French Club
- ☑ Curling
- ☑ Scouts, Cubs and Beavers
- ☑ Mardi Club
- ☑ Sukona
- ☑ Yoga
- ☑ Ballroom Dancing

A Lego and Craft Club is held during the school holidays by Sharon Dobinson offering a wide range of activities for children of school age.

Fundraising events in 2022 included:-

☑ Wedding Dress Display in April. This was a beautiful display of residents wedding dresses and photographs and was a great success and far exceeded everyone's expectations.

☑ Open Gardens 2022 – Always a favourite for residents and visitors. We are extremely grateful to the people who opened their gardens to the public as we appreciate the very hard work that goes into making this event a huge success. The gardens were truly beautiful.

☑ Queen's Jubilee Big Lunch – Despite the weather and change of location from village green to village hall, this was well attended and many young families enjoyed playing traditional party games.

Forthcoming events include:-

- ☒ Coronation Afternoon Tea on Sunday, 8th May 2023.
- ☒ Mosaic – Music and Dancing – date to be confirmed
- ☒ Scarecrow Festival – September
- ☒ Fashion Shows

While much has been achieved in the period of the report, the Management Committee strive to continue to expand our range of activities offered, while continuing to maintain and improve the Village Institute ensuring it remains a safe and welcoming venue for the residents of Barton to enjoy. The residents of Barton would not have a village asset like the hall if it was not for the hard work of my fellow Management Committee members and I want to take this opportunity of thanking them for their dedication and commitment during what has been a very difficult time. I would also like to thank our regular hall hirers and users for always maintaining a good standard of tidiness and cleanliness helping to keep the hall in a good condition. However, we could always do with more help, whether it is running activities, workshops, or helping with maintenance and cleaning. All help is very gratefully accepted.

Special thanks go to the following:-

- ☒ To Mrs Sue Wright and her team of ladies who suggested and took on the task of starting up and running the Mardi Club. This has been a resounding success. It has created new friendships and a place to go in the Village on a weekly basis. It has been well attended and is a life line to some residents – exactly what the village hall was intended for.
- ☒ to Mrs Anne Howe who held a Christmas Garland Workshop in November. Anne and her small team of helpers worked so hard providing all the materials for this event. It was a complete sell out and a thoroughly enjoyable event getting everyone in the mood for Christmas. Anne very kindly donated the proceeds of the event to the Village Institute Funds. We are extremely grateful to her. The feedback from the event was that it was an overwhelming success.
- ☒ to Barton Leek Club for their generous donation towards the Queens Jubilee Celebrations and also acknowledgement of the support they offer throughout the village.
- ☒ We would also like to extend thanks to the Parish Council, Parochial Church Council, and chapel for their encouragement, help and support with events.

The annual accounts are prepared and are ready to be filed with the Charity Commission together with details of the Village Hall Committee nominated Trustees following this meeting.

On a final note, Barton Village Institute was gifted to the residents of Barton and is essentially your hall to use and enjoy. If anyone wishes to join the committee and has the skills or experience to make a contribution to the running of the hall, please let us know.

Chair Jones identified an anomaly in the figures that had been uploaded to the Charities Commission. To ensure that this error is corrected the VH Management Committee is to arrange for the accounts for 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 to be audited with the results presented to the PC prior to their resubmission to the Charities

	<p>Commission. A suggested timeline would be for presentation to the next PC meeting September 28th 2023</p> <p>It was agreed that Cllr Dobinson would represent the Parish Council for the VH Committee.</p> <p>The Parish Council would like to extend thanks to the Village Hall Committee for all of their work and dedication in the running of Barton Institute.</p>
<p>7 Allotment Committee Report 2021/22</p>	<p>Allotment Committee Report 2021/22 Read by Gill Smalley – summarised by the Clerk Chair Ray Dixon sent apologies. An AGM was held in August last year. Plot rents are due in April.</p> <p>Unfortunately a water pump was stolen from the allotments and a replacement cost £150.</p> <p>Bad frosts in May affected some plot holders.</p> <p>The boundary hedge has been up for discussion with the Parish Council. In February 2022 the PC agreed that it was responsible for the maintenance of the hedges/trees along the boundary. Oliver Tree Services came to maintain the boundary but no-one was available to be present to liaise with them and the job carried out was not adequate to the needs of the boundary. The next Tree Survey is being carried out in September – when they return to carry out works to finish the task Mr Dixon and Ms Smalley have requested to be there.</p> <p>The Committee have changed banks as HSBC started charging a standing account charge of over £5 a month</p> <p>All plots are currently taken and there is a waiting list of 3 people at present.</p>
<p>8 Summary of Income & Expenditure 2021/2022</p>	<p>Parish Council: Precept: £9375 Total Other Receipts: £6744 Staff Costs: £3038 All Other Payments: £17566 Balance carried forward: £1671</p> <p>Cllr Wool raised the issue that a VAT rebate was included in the Budget used to calculate the Precept requested from NYC – imperative that those funds materialise. Clerk to investigate if VAT is in the process of being claimed for</p>

MEETING CLOSED 8.10pm